



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8
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POLREP #3 OIL POLLUTION REPORT

I. BACKGROUND

Date:	December 20, 2001
Subject:	Hot Springs Refinery; Hot Springs, SD
POLREP No.:	POLREP 3
OSC Name:	Joyce Ackerman
Agency:	EPA
Unit:	Region VIII Emergency Response Program 999 18th Street, Suite 300 Denver, Colorado 80202 (303) 312-6822
Party Conducting the Action:	EPA
Federal Project # (FPN):	N01243
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
Date Current Action Started:	4-2-2001

II. SITUATION

Date of Original Notification:	4-2-2001
Material Involved:	Crude Oil
Quantity Discharged:	Unknown, estimated at 7,500 gallons
Substantial Threat:	None
Resource Affected:	Fall River
Source Identification:	Buried pit containing crude oil waste products
Demobilization Date:	N/A
Completion Date:	N/A

III. SITE INFORMATION



A. Incident Category

Section 311(c) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1321(c) as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

B. Site Description

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources requested assistance from EPA at this Site. Utility companies have installed fiber optic cable and water lines at this Site, and encountered petroleum contamination. The contamination is believed to be from the former Hot Springs Oil Refinery.

The Hot Springs Refinery was open in 1932 and supported oil production activities in the Osage oil fields of Wyoming. Reportedly, all waste products from the refining process were disposed in earthen pits and covered with teakwood planks. The size of the pits are estimated to be 20 feet by 30 feet. The depth of the pits are unknown.

Refining operations ceased in the 1940s, but the Site continued to be used as a bulk petroleum storage business for another 50 years. State Highway 18 was constructed in 1962, and appears to have been constructed partly over the main waste pit.

The Fall River is approximately 550 feet from the Site. The responsible parties have not conducted any investigations to determine if the contamination has migrated to the river.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current situation

EPA's START contractor installed groundwater wells in August 2001, sampled existing wells in between the refinery and the river, and sampled surface water at the Fall River. One boring in the vicinity of the pit encountered free-flowing oil, approximately the consistency of a used oil.

Samples from five of the seven newly-installed wells showed the presence of dissolved-phase petroleum. No petroleum detections were found in the existing wells or the river.

EPA will re-sample the new wells quarterly for up to one year to determine if the oil in the disposal pit or other releases from the refinery are migrating toward the river.

2. Removal Actions to Date

No removal actions have been taken yet.

3. Enforcement

EPA will collect information on the responsible parties in the event a removal action is required.

B. Planned Removal Action

EPA's investigation will determine if a removal action is necessary.

C. Key Issues

There are no key issues identified at this time.

V. COST INFORMATION

EPA opened the fund to respond to the release as follows:

5-4-01 Opened for \$35,000

8-6-01 Ceiling increased by \$20,000 for a total of \$55,000.

11-21-01 Ceiling increases by \$30,000 for a total of \$85,000.